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Death of Hon. John Covode.

EULOGIES

BY

HON. WILLIAM D. KELLEY.....OF PENNSYLVANIA.
" NATHANIEL P. BANKS.....OF MASSACHUSETTS.
" ULYSSES MERCUR.....OF PENNSYLVANIA.
" WILLIAM E. NIBLACK.....OF INDIANA.
" HORACE MAYNARD.....OF TENNESSEE.
" J. LAWRENCE GETZ.....OF PENNSYLVANIA.
" RICHARD J. HALDEMAN.....OF PENNSYLVANIA.
" JOHN SCOTT.....OF PENNSYLVANIA.
" CHARLES SUMNER.....OF MASSACHUSETTS.
" JOHN SHERMAN.....OF OHIO.
" SIMON CAMERON.....OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DELIVERED

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE,

FEBRUARY 9 AND 10, 1871.

WASHINGTON:
F. & J. RIVES & GEO. A. BAILEY,
REPORTERS AND PRINTERS OF THE DEBATES OF CONGRESS.
1871.

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Death of Hon. John Covode.

Mr. KELLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have again been painfully reminded that there is an appointed time to man on earth, and that he is consumed, and vanisheth away as the cloud. When on Friday, the 6th of January, he left Washington for a brief visit to Philadelphia and Harrisburg, few of us appeared to have a firmer hold on life or the more assured promise of a green and comfortable old age than my late colleague, Hon. JOHN COVODE. Descending from ancestors on either side whose lives had been prolonged beyond the allotted period, endowed with a robust and muscular frame, and having enjoyed singular immunity from disease, he was happy in the thought that at the expiration of this Congress he was to return to private life and devote his energies to the promotion of several enterprises in which his interests and feelings were engaged. But it was not so appointed. He was not to return to his place in this Hall; and the execution of his cherished purposes was to be confided to other hands.

From Philadelphia he went with his younger sons to West Chester, Pennsylvania, to replace them in the excellent academy in which they had been receiving those educational advantages of which untoward circumstances had deprived their father. Accompanied by his wife he proceeded to Harrisburg on the 10th of January. He was in the enjoyment of his usual vigorous health, and passed the evening in cheerful intercourse with friends assembled at its capital from the several quarters of his native State. Expecting to take the early morning train, he retired early and slept, free from apprehension of the dread summoner. About three o'clock he was awaked by a severe pain about the heart. What wife and friends and medical skill could do for his relief was done; but in less than two brief hours the strong man feebly gasped the dread words, "I am dying!" and passed beyond the sphere of temporal trials or triumphs.

A distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, in the course of an elaborate article entitled "The Government and the Railroad Corporations," in the last number of the North American Review, in characterizing the people of Pennsylvania, says:

> "They are not marked by intelligence. They are, in fact, dull, uninteresting, very slow, and very persevering. These are qualities, however, which they hold in common with the ancient Romans. And they possess also, in a marked degree, one other characteristic of that classic race, the power of organization, and through it of command. They have always decided our presidential elections; they have always, in their dull, heavy fashion, regulated our economical policy; their iron-masters have, in truth, proved iron-masters indeed, when viewed by other localities through the medium of the protective system by them imposed. Not open to argument, not receptive of ideas, not given to flashes of brilliant execution, this State none the less knows well what it wants, and knows equally well how to organize to secure it."

The author of this paragraph would probably have found little to commend in the character and career of Mr. COVODE, who was born in the mountainous wilds of western Pennsylvania many years before that State had provided common schools for its children, and whose childhood and youth were passed in toil on a farm and in a woolen mill. He had not studied the writings of Kant, Fichte, or Hegel, or even made himself familiar with those of Carlyle or Emerson. But, ignorant as he may have been of the doctrine of intuitive perceptions and the body of transcendental philosophy, he had, without these aids, attained such a knowledge of the uses of material nature, and the springs that animate, impel, or restrain men, as made him the welcome and trusted counselor when maturing their grandest projects, of men far more learned, brilliant, and distinguished than himself. His letters contain no quotations from classic authors, but are replete with evidence of his sagacity, insight into the motives of men, and masculine and matured judgment.

Mr. COVODE was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 17th of March, 1808. That his parentage was humble will be inferred from the fact that his grandfather, Garrett Covode, a native of Holland, was when a child kidnapped in the streets of Amsterdam by a sea-captain, who brought him to Philadelphia and under then existing laws sold him into bondage as a "redemp-

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tioner," in which condition he was held for some years after coming to manhood, and was subsequently employed as a domestic servant in the household of General Washington. He died in 1826 at the advanced age of ninety-four years. The mother of Mr. Covode was a Quaker, and it is among the traditions of her family that two of her ancestors, together with a person named Wood, prepared and published a protest against the decision of William Penn recognizing the legality of African slavery. This protest is said to have been the first anti-slavery manifesto published in this country.

The first public office filled by Mr. Covode was that of justice of the peace "for Ligonier and Fairfield townships," to which he was appointed by Governor Wolf before he was twenty-four years of age. Then, and in this humble office, it was that his neighbors bestowed on him the *sobriquet* of honest John Covode. His office, to which angry litigants were summoned, was in truth a court of conciliation, in which, regardless of the emoluments of office, the judge found his duty and pleasure in adjusting by compromise disputed claims between his neighbors and soothing their exasperation.

In 1845 he was nominated by the Whig conferees of the counties of Somerset and Westmoreland as the candidate of that party for State senator. The district was largely Democratic and he was defeated, although he received several hundred more votes than any other candidate on the State or local ticket of his party. At the next senatorial election he was again nominated, and such was his personal popularity that though both counties gave large Democratic majorities for the general ticket, he came within fifty votes of election. In 1854 he was nominated for Congress by the Whigs of the nineteenth district, consisting of Westmoreland, Indiana, and Armstrong counties. His competitor had been returned at the preceding election by a large majority, but Mr. Covode led him 2,757 votes, and was returned. This was the Thirty-Fourth Congress, and he was reëlected to the Thirty-Fifth, Thirty-Sixth, and Thirty-Seventh.

On the 5th of March, 1860, he introduced a resolution providing for a committee of five members of the House "for the purpose of investigating whether the President of the United States or any other officer of the Government has, by money, patronage, or other improper means, sought to influence the action of Congress, or any committees thereof, for or against the passage of any law appertaining to the rights of any State or Territory," &c.

Few who were engaged in the political struggles of those days will forget the industry, energy, and ability with which Mr. Covode conducted the investigation ordered by this resolution, or the influence his elaborate report had upon the public mind. The report was a thorough exposure of the corrupt appliances by which the Kansas-Nebraska legislation had been secured, and was soon in the hands of every Republican speaker or writer in the country.

Mr. Covode was twice married, and had three sons by his first marriage, all of whom he gave to the country upon the breaking out of the war. George, the eldest, rose by gradual and well-won promotion to the rank of colonel, and was killed while leading his regiment at the battle of St. Mary's Church, in 1864. The youngest, Jacob, pined for more than eighteen months in the loathsome and pestilential pen provided for Union prisoners at Andersonville. He still lives a broken and prematurely old man. Mr. Covode's industry and enterprise had meanwhile secured him an ample competence, and with his sons he was ready to devote this, too, to his country; and while bankers and capitalists were doubting the propriety of investing in the war loan about to be issued, the telegraph informed the people that John Covode had apprised the Secretary of the Treasury of his purpose to take $50,000 of the forthcoming bonds.

He was a member of the joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. To the labors of this committee he devoted himself with untiring zeal until the 4th of March, 1863, when, having declined a nomination, he retired from Congress. Availing himself of the knowledge Mr. Covode had thus acquired, and of his quick perception of the motives of men, President Johnson requested him to make a tour of observation through the unreconstructed States and report his conclusions and the general facts upon which they were based. But observing the change that had taken place in the views and purposes of the President, he soon returned and submitted a report, which was never made public, though the House called upon the President for a copy thereof.

Mr. Covode having refused to be a candidate, the district was represented by a Democrat, Hon. John L. Dawson, in the Thirty-Eighth and Thirty-Ninth Congresses. Yielding to the demands of his party, he however accepted a nomination for the Fortieth and was returned by a handsome majority, and was, after a contest by Hon. Henry D. Foster, also awarded a seat in the Forty-First Congress. His influence was not confined to his county or congressional district. It was felt throughout the State, not only in politics, but in all measures projected for the development of its boundless material resources. Having been appointed to the position in 1869, and conducted the campaign that resulted in the reëlection of Governor Geary, he was at the time of his death chairman of the Republican State central committee.

In comparatively early manhood he became the owner of the woolen mill in which he had been employed when a boy. He watched with interest our progress in the manufacture of textiles and labored to promote their diversification and perfection. But his mill did not offer an adequate field for his activity. He took a zealous part in promoting the construction of internal improvements by which the sea-board should be connected with the then opening West, and on the completion of the Pennsylvania canal engaged largely in the

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business of transportation. He was also a liberal and energetic promoter of the construction of the Pennsylvania Central railroad. On the completion of this road to Lockport, where he lived and superintended his mill, he concentrated his stock upon the western sections of the canal and engaged in forwarding to and from Pittsburg the rapidly increasing freight moved by the railroad. About this time he also organized the Westmoreland Coal Company, which has developed the immense deposits of gas coal that underlie in such affluence his native hills. By this operation he added to the wealth of every farmer in the county, for the army of stalwart men now earning liberal wages by mining and handling this coal is so numerous that it gives them a steady home market, not only for the cereals, but the minor productions of the farm which will not bear extended transportation.

Mr. Speaker, what I have said is sufficient to show that Mr. COVODE was a man of power and a useful citizen. He had long been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was faithful in all the relations of life, and his story may be read with profit by the youth of the country. Born subject to those "twin jailers of the daring heart, low birth and iron fortune," and receiving the benefits of but the smallest opportunities for early culture, he mastered fortune, commanded the confidence of his neighbors and fellow-citizens, and secured for his name an honorable place in his country's history, and, by originating and promoting beneficent enterprises, wrote it enduringly on the hills and in the homes of his native county. He left a wife and seven children to mourn his sudden death. The results of his provident care surround them, and their sorrow is alleviated by the confident assurance that he who was so fondly devoted to them has entered upon the rewards that are earned by a well-spent life.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the House has heard with deep regret of the death of Hon. JOHN COVODE, a member of this House from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That as a testimony of respect to the memory of the deceased the officers and members of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased by the Clerk.

Resolved, That the House, as a further mark of respect to the deceased, do now adjourn.

Mr. BANKS. It is a common event, Mr. Speaker, that interrupts the regular course of legislative business, and calls upon us to reflect upon the loss we have sustained by the death of the late honorable member of the House from Pennsylvania, to consider our relations to each other and to the great Author of our being. No occurrence is more frequent. There is not a day, not an hour, scarcely a minute passes over us that some recruit or veteran in the great army of life does not drop by our side or within our sight.

It is not violence or crime, disease or excess alone that gives death its victory. It has other means of conquest than the shot and shock of battle, the murderous affray, the indulgence of the passions, or storm and tempest in the physical world. Though human passions were extinct and men as guileless as the flowers of the field, still the carnage would go on. Death would still reap its regular and prolific harvest. There are seeds as well as instruments of death. They are sown everywhere—in hills, in drills, and broadcast. No clime so rugged, no soil so barren, that it will not bear this fruit. That which falls even by the wayside or upon stony ground is not lost.

This is the harvest that never fails. No class of men escapes. Our predecessors in these classic Halls have been swept away by battalions. The paths of granite and marble that lead to the Capitol have been worn away by the unceasing and heavy tread of anxious and solemn men that from every part of the Union have come here to meditate upon the necessities and to labor for the improvement and preservation of the Government. Where are they now? Death has spared but few. Of a score and a half of Congresses, perhaps more, even now, in the infancy of our Government, not one luring voice is heard, no representative remains. The best, the bravest, the noblest of our land, all are gone. Madison, Monroe, Adams, Polk, Clay, Benton, Webster, Calhoun, Macon, Douglas, Broderick, Giddings, Davis, Wilmot, Stevens, Burlingame, are but types of the host that have preceded us to the only haven of rest for wearied, exhausted, betrayed human nature.

It is a common event, therefore, that summons us to suspend deliberation upon the affairs of life that we may consider for a moment those of eternity. That which makes it seem particular with us is that it stole upon us without our knowledge; swept from our side the stalwart form of active and vigorous life upon which we relied for help in committee, in session, and in society; broke up the quorum of associates and friends; and left us stunned, standing in helpless silence, knowing only what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue. Like time, the angel of death hides its wings as it approaches. It is when they are upon us and cover us that we comprehend the depth of that shadowless valley through which it takes its flight.

How difficult it is to comprehend, in this full blaze of light and life, that the broad-shouldered and stalwart man who stood beside us, his voice still ringing in our ears, unceasing in his activity, doing no wrong, seeking only the good of others, should, even while we turned to look upon him, disappear from our sight forever, and his spirit by translation pass to another world!

The death of Mr. COVODE reminds me how much we depend upon others for the selection and acquaintance with our most intimate associates. I knew him chiefly through my late lamented friend, Mr. Burlingame. He was the earliest among many active and sagacious men of the Thirty-Fourth Congress to analyze

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his character and accord due honor the separate elements of which it was composed.

Mr. Burlingame was a harmonizer. It was his ambition to bring those who should act together to understand and know each other. No man was ever endowed with more of this divine power. He appeared to feel instinctively, not merely the presence of good or evil spirits, but to measure with unerring justice the exact degree with which innocent and baneful qualities were mixed in human character. He looked upon the world with the eye of childhood, but he judged it with almost more than mortal wisdom. Without effort and without resistance he allowed its varied characters to be photographed upon his mind; and thus he read, as by an unseen light, the secret natures of men by whom he was surrounded and with whom he was associated. He knew all qualities certainly with a most learned spirit. It was this purpose and this power which gave him in speech, and still more in social intercourse, the great influence which he wielded here, and enabled him in another sphere to bring together unknown and hostile sections of the world with mutual satisfaction and advantage.

Mr. Burlingame was naturally and at once drawn into confidential and friendly relations with Mr. COVODE, who, in a different way and upon a different class of persons, exercised the same important and beneficent influence. I shall never forget the delight with which Mr. Burlingame first spoke to me of having found in his new friend a kindred spirit. It is strange that men so unlike in condition, in habits, and in cultivation should be so drawn together; but it is the one common touch of nature makes the whole world kin. No two persons exercised a higher or purer influence in the Congress which brought them together, and their mutual esteem and friendship ended only with their lives. It would be impossible for me to pronounce a higher eulogium upon the character of the late member of the House than to repeat what I have so often heard fall from the eloquent lips of our common friend; and I am sure no estimate of character could be more highly prized by his family or friends, or by the members of the House around me, than a favorable judgment formed under such circumstances and considerately expressed by the distinguished man to whom I have referred.

The peculiar and prominent characteristics of Mr. COVODE were his simplicity, sincerity, and earnestness. His convictions were clear and strong. He was necessarily a partisan, because he adhered to his convictions and those who supported them; but he was an honest and generous partisan. With the best opportunities to judge during the most excited periods of our recent political history, I never observed in him the slightest tinge of malignity, of selfishness, or of envy. There is no character of the heated period of which I speak that I recall with more unmixed satisfaction or higher respect.

There is no better illustration of the power of good sense, honest purposes, and earnest devotion, unaccompanied by the advantages of scholarship, than that which his career exhibits. He was, as his distinguished and eloquent colleague has said, an uneducated man; but there are elements of power more important in the management of human affairs than polite learning or scholastic education:

"Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one,
Have oft times no connection. Knowledge dwell
In heads replete with thoughts of other men;
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.
Knowledge, a rude, unprofitable mass,
The mere material with which wisdom builds,
Till smoothed and squared and fitted in its place
Doth but incumber where it seems to enrich."

Mr. COVODE had this wisdom. There were few among us who had a larger share of influence in public affairs when he gave them his attention, or could better impress his convictions upon the masses of the people.

Without any of the graces of oratory, his speeches, short, sententious, apposite, and replete with enthusiasm, never failed to produce the effect which is both the purpose and result of true eloquence—that of challenging attention and working conviction. His addresses to popular assemblies were of this character: practical, enriched with copious illustration, pertinent to his argument, never above the comprehension of his auditors, and never failing to carry conviction to those whom he addressed. The political campaign that followed the presidential election of 1856, especially those which brought in review the incidents of the distinguished administration of Mr. Buchanan, gave signal evidence of his success and power.

There was a religious tinge in all his thought and actions not unlike that attributed to Huguenots and Puritans, but which gave him somewhat different character. Though a stern partisan, he did not counsel extreme measures. A generous policy, enforced with unity and vigor, represented his theory of wise political action. When party necessities carried me beyond this he was a cool, reluctant, if not halting supporter. It has been said, and I believe with entire truth, that it was due to the direct action and influence of Mr. COVODE that Mr. President Lincoln was led, against the advice of some of the most prominent of his supporters, to issue the order directing the immediate and unreserved exchange of prisoners of war during the latter period of the great rebellion. If this be true, no man can present a more honorable claim to the respect of the people, without reference to political opinion or partisan relations. This view of his character is strengthened by the fact that he never failed or faltered in support of those measures which were deemed necessary to protect and preserve the Government and to secure and perpetuate the liberties of all its people.

Though we lament his death, we cannot be unconscious that our loss is his gain. He exchanges one life for another. It is not annihilation, but ascension that he has reached. He will suffer no longer the disappointment which attends the expectation and the effort to

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make the world virtuous by statute legislation or despotic administration. He has passed beyond this, to a higher wisdom and holier existence. He is done with the vanities of life, with all its—

"Reveries so airy, with the toil
Of dropping buckets into empty wells,
And growing old in drawing nothing up."

The death of Mr. COVODE is one of the many events which impart to all men an unaccustomed feeling of insecurity. Death produces death and calamity begets calamity. The terrible afflictions which within a few years have passed over the face of the earth, crushing empires and States as well as individuals, more than ever should lead us to recognize our dependence upon the beneficent will of the Creator of the world. It should teach us as well that permanent success follows only justice and truth; that there is but one Spirit to which the world should be subjected—

"One Spirit, His
Who bore the platted thorns with bleeding brows,
Must rule universal nature."

Mr. MERCUR. Mr. Speaker, I feel unwilling to suffer this occasion to pass without briefly adding my tribute to a departed friend.

JOHN COVODE'S life was a striking illustration of the success which will crown the works of an earnest and laborious man. Deprived in his youth of the advantages of a liberal education, he felt the greater need of literally working his way to enable him to rise to eminence and to fortune. This he determined to do. Strong physical powers, clear practical mind, and indomitable will all united in impelling him onward and upward. His was a mind that was not contented to occupy any uncertain position. No so-called "conservative" doctrines ever deterred him from pursuing the right, as he saw it. Sprung from liberty-loving ancestors, he retained all their notions of freedom, but grafted thereon a greater love, begotten by the spirit of this progressive age. His opinions once carefully formed, no timidity characterized their expression. He followed his convictions to their logical consequences. Men who united their political fortunes with his felt a confidence that he would continue as he began, and not turn aside and leave them without a standard bearer to lead them.

Neither his accumulated wealth nor his prominent position in the eye of the nation ever estranged him from his early and less fortunate associates. Dwelling in the small but beautiful and retired valley of the Ligonier, in his native county of Westmoreland, he never appeared to desire a home elsewhere. The rugged hills which surrounded his residence seemed to give strength to his judgment and freedom to his speech.

When, in obedience to a resolution of this House, I stood beside his coffin, and hundreds of his neighbors and friends passed before it, I saw unmistakable evidence of the esteem and affection which they had borne toward him. With pride they had viewed his elevation and success in life. They shared in his reputation. His honor was their honor. No jealousies had separated them. He had ever returned to them the same social, kind, and unassuming friend. His was a nature to mourn with them when they mourned, and to rejoice with them when they rejoiced. A true type of our republican institutions, he never for a moment lost sight of that great cardinal doctrine that ours is "a Government of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Suddenly stricken down in the midst of his active life, this House has lost one of its most faithful members, the nation one of its watchful legislators, the State of Pennsylvania one of its best known and most enterprising citizens, and his family a kind and indulgent husband and father.

Mr. NIBLACK. Mr. Speaker, I feel that I ought not to allow this occasion to pass without adding a few words.

Very few persons on this side of the House, outside of his own State, have perhaps known the deceased as long and as well as I have. When, in December, 1857, I first entered this House as one of its members I found him here as one of the Representatives from Pennsylvania, and I soon afterward made his acquaintance. He was then, I think, serving on his second term. He was one of the very few I then met who are now members of either of the two Houses of Congress. Although neither of us have been since continuously members of this body, yet it has so happened that this makes the fourth Congress, I believe, in which we have served simultaneously.

Soon after thus first meeting him we were thrown together on some tedious and rather important committee work, which required almost daily meetings for many weeks, and which brought us into frequent and unreserved personal association. That association ripened into a rather intimate personal acquaintance, and from that time to the day of our last meeting we always met rather as old neighbors and familiar friends are accustomed to meet than as new-made acquaintances, representing different and distant States. And however much we may have differed in our political views and party associations, nothing of a personally unpleasant character ever occurred between us.

I have seldom since met him that he did not have some cheerful word to impart or something quaint and amusing to communicate. Of course it was not in the nature of things that I should learn to know him here as his friends and neighbors at home knew him. I can onld speak of him as he impressed himself upon me from time to time as I saw him here. He was evidently a gentleman of well-marked traits of character. He had shrewdness and energy in an eminent degree. He, too, was self-possessed and self-reliant. These qualities all combined made him at once a valuable friend and a dangerous antagonist. He impressed me, too, as a man of a remarkably good memory, with a great aptitude for details in all the practical

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affairs of life. His cast of mind, too, was eminently practical. He had no taste for mere theories. With him the great question seemed to be what was it best to do under the circumstances by which he was surrounded, and when that was solved he hesitated no longer. There are some phases of political life, too, to which he seemed peculiarly adapted. He was especially observant as to the political maneuverings of the politicians of all parties. In such matters he was usually remarkably well informed. To him I have often been indebted for my first information as to current political events which were not yet publicly known.

I will not, however, Mr. Speaker, attempt an analysis of the character of the deceased, nor will I dwell upon any of the incidents of his official life. These have already been sufficiently given by others. Sir, it was but the other day—perhaps not a week before his death—that on my way to the Capitol I fell in with him on the Avenue, and we came on the rest of the way together. In our rather desultory conversation which ensued I referred to the fact that he would not be with us in the next Congress, and inquired of him how he felt about returning to private life again. He responded with seeming cheerfulness, that he was quite willing to quit Congress for a while, and possibly forever. Referring to his age, he said it was getting time he would settle down a little more quietly than he had been for many years past. "But," said he, "I have plenty to do at home in looking after my business; besides, political matters have not been going right for some time in Pennsylvania, and I will then have more time to help straighten things up there." Continuing, he further remarked: "I am good for several years' hard work yet, and I am not going to give up politics entirely if I do quit Congress."

He was then, Mr. Speaker, apparently as full of life and of plans for the future as any of us here to-day, and as totally unconscious that the relentless hand of death was already stretched out to receive him. You can judge then of my surprise, sir, of the shock which it imparted, when on the wings of the lightning the news came to us of his death only a few days later. No man of all my acquaintances seemed to have a fairer hold on life for a few years to come than he. Yet without a note of warning he has been stricken down. From the dust he came, and to the earth he has returned. As but yesterday he was a part of that living, breathing, moving, restless energy we call human life; to-day all that remain of him to us is as cold, as inert, and as lifeless as the clay in which he rests.

What a fearful admonition of the uncertainty of human life! How thin the drapery which separates us from eternity! And yet we go on planning, scheming, projecting, as if we had a perpetual lease of life, as if the "eternal years of God" were ours.

Mr. Speaker, a strong man has fallen, another chair is vacant in this Hall, another familiar face has disappeared from among us forever. And we, his survivors, can but bow in reverence to that divine will which has thus decreed the time and manner of his death. I also concur in seconding the resolutions which have been offered.

Mr. MAYNARD. The request by the friends of the deceased to take a part in these obituary ceremonies cannot be denied. It is the common desire of us all, when in the hour of bereavement we appeal to our fellow-men, be they strangers or friends, in the language of the patriarch, to help us bury our dead out of our sight, and must not be unheeded. The feeling is as old as death and as wide as humanity. All unite with one accord in granting immunity to the grave. The forms of the departed are gently laid away; their memory is tenderly cherished. No man of sensibility will vex the sepulcher; and the injunction to speak well of the dead or not at all is a precept which antedates Christianity. Here all rivalries cease, all resentments are extinguished, all contentions are hushed. The brotherhood of mortality meet at the common gateway, wide and ever open, through which all, soon or late, are destined to pass. Thither our bewildered footsteps, be they swift or be they slow, are constantly tending. The soul is awed in the presence of its own appointed doom. *In tempore sum, de tempore loquor, at nescio quid sit tempus,* is the confession of St. Augustine; and he might have made it, in phrase slightly changed, of the kindred mysteries, life, death, and eternity, as well as of time. Time is so identified with life, and death with eternity, that in speaking of the dead we unconsciously transcend the rules of judgment applied to the living, and, passing by the infirmities incident to the present sphere, dwell with satisfaction and comfort upon the more solid and enduring qualities which seem appropriate to the other.

It is now almost fourteen years since I first met the deceased as a member of this House. Though not at that time politically associated, our relations from the first were kind, soon friendly, never intimate. At that day he was one of the most active and zealous, and I think the most effective, opponents of Mr. Buchanan's administration from his own State. Not a man of education or culture, as these terms are usually understood, nor yet an orator, according to the canons of the schools, he was what neither oratory nor culture nor education can make; he was a worker, tireless and fearless. He had no confidence in the Administration, and believed it to be very corrupt, and therefore moved in the House for a committee to investigate its action. The results were embodied in an elaborate report, accompanied by voluminous testimony, which produced a deep and painful impression upon the public mind. Justice, I am inclined to think, both to him and to Mr. Buchanan, would require the revision of the report by the light of subsequent events. The Administration was so complicated with the incipient rebellion, the same characters being conspicuous in both, Cabinet officers and rebel leaders, that

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it requires great discrimination to decide for what of its acts it was responsible and as to what it was merely unfortunate. The time has not yet arrived, and if it had this is not the occasion, to pursue the inquiry. And the suggestion is thrown out merely for the purpose of the further remark that had Mr. COVODE lived no one would have been more ready than he to correct any injustice into which he might have been unwittingly betrayed. Of conscious injustice, of intended wrong, however bitter the provocation, I think he was incapable.

During the war, even while not in public life, he gave to the Government an earnest and efficient support. Like so many others of the prominent men of that day, he offered his own son a sacrifice upon the altar of the country; and we have all seen his eyes grow dim with natural tears when recalling the memory of the gallant boy. He became satisfied very early in the contest that we were virtually resisting the power of Great Britain, and anticipated an open declaration of hostilities with that Government. Though pained beyond measure to find an enemy where he thought we had a right to expect a friend, he did not hesitate about accepting the issue—doubtful and destructive as it certainly appeared. He was ready to stake all he had upon it and to abide the fate of his country. As might be supposed, he sympathized actively with the soldiers in the field; often visiting them in camp and using great diligence in providing for their wants, and in correcting the many irregularities incident to the volunteer service, especially in the earlier years, before either officers or men had become trained to the art of war and inured to its hardships.

His subsequent public career is too recent and too familiar for detail. Certain cardinal principles of action have regulated his course in our legislation. He believed that the issues of the war should be finally settled so as not to be reopened for the annoyance and consternation of future times; that the settlement should be confirmed by fair and reasonable guarantees; that the colored race, emancipated during the war, and as a war measure, should have their freedom secured beyond peradventure as a real, substantial boon, and not as an illusory thing; and, in short, that no man of any race or residence should ever have reason to regret that he had actively espoused the cause of the Union.

His politics were peculiarly of the old Whig school. The doctrines embodied with special clearness by Mr. Clay, in what he denominated the American system, as opposed to the British system, he deemed identified with the highest development and the largest prosperity of this continent. Nor was he a mere theorist. For many years I have understood he was actively engaged in different branches of productive industry, and with marked success. His record upon all questions connected with the material interests of the people will be found in accordance with these views.

I have intimated that he was not a scholar. As implying a knowledge of books, beyond the Book of books, of which he was a diligent student and a firm believer, the remark is just. But in a wider and larger sense he was not untaught. He had a fair knowledge of men and of things. Few could more wisely decide the ends to be accomplished or more judiciously select the means for their accomplishment.

What need that I add a single word touching the character of this self-poised and self-reliant man? For us who knew him, none. His kind and genial humor, his unfailing good nature, his relish for merriment, and his almost boyish fondness for the joyous and playful, endeared him to us all as a friend to be loved and an opponent not to be hated. And when the tidings came so sudden, so shocking to us who, as it seemed, but the day before had greeted him in the House, that without warning he had been stricken down, each felt that his own circle had been invaded and one of its most agreeable members taken away.

His domestic relations, I have reason to say, were unusually affectionate and tender; and the resolution of condolence with the bereaved family, customary on similar occasions, will in this instance carry a peculiar significance.

His moral character, as distinguished from his social and domestic character, has been summed up by the popular voice in the single epithet, "Honest JOHN COVODE." Such contemporary estimates of character are seldom wrong and rarely reversed. And I feel sure of being sustained in ascribing to him the attributes of one of the best-drawn characters of antiquity:

"When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me: Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth. Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel. After my words, they spake not again."

Mr. GETZ. Mr. Speaker, "I come to bury Cæsar, not to praise him." To speak truth of the dead, though an ungracious duty, is honester far than to pronounce the fulsome eulogy which makes an immaculate saint of him who while he lived frankly confessed himself a sinner. As a party man, Mr. COVODE was extreme, uncompromising, and, his opponents thought, unscrupulous. With him politics meant warfare, and he that was not with him was against him, and dealt with as an enemy to whom no quarter was to be granted. I knew him long in the political affairs of our State, and so radically did we differ upon all the questions that have divided parties during the past twenty years that I cannot remember a single instance in which we were in accord. It was only when I became associated with him in Congress that my personal acquaintance with him commenced, and that the opportunity was afforded me of learning that he whom I had always

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looked upon as an implacable political adversary possessed traits of character that made him susceptible to the warmest personal friendship.

Of his public career the colleagues who acted with him have spoken, and with commendation. Of his private life as a man and a citizen I feel free to say a few words, because I can say them in honor to his memory. With no advantages of early education, and with none of the adventitious aids to advancement that many of his compeers enjoyed in their youth, he achieved both fortune and fame by his own inherent force of character. Untiring industry, indomitable energy, frugality without parsimony, an intellect quick to apprehend and a judgment remarkably acute to apply the knowledge he acquired in his intercourse with men, were the elements that combined to make his life, in a worldly point of view, a success. The secret of his popularity at home consisted in the fact that after he had risen to affluence and attained to honorable public station he did not, as many have done under similar circumstances, turn his back upon the scene of his early and humble toil and take up his abode amid the splendors of fashionable life, where his wealth and position would have drawn toward him that society which is so much coveted by man's vain ambition, but remained at the old secluded homestead, on the romantic but rugged and wild mountains of Westmoreland, and employed his time and means in developing and improving not only his immediate neighborhood, but the whole of western Pennsylvania.

JOHN COVODE had his faults, as who of us has not? But whatever may be recorded against him in the great book of God's remembrance, there will also be entered to his credit many an act of kindness, many a generous deed, many a work of charity, many a token of pure friendship. His death was sudden; so sudden and startling that when the intelligence first reached this city it was hardly credited. It was a surprise to all; and may I not say that none who knew him heard it confirmed without a pang of sorrow? Like the great statesman of Kentucky, no man had warmer friends and none more bitter enemies. Now that he has gone to "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns," the latter may properly imitate the magnanimity of Henry Clay, who, when it was expected that he would rejoice at the death of his life-long foe, bowed his head in sorrow and feelingly exclaimed, "When God lays His hand upon my enemy I take mine off."

For myself, burying all partisan animosity in the grave that has but lately closed over JOHN COVODE'S remains, I shall henceforth bear him in the same kindly remembrance that I know he would have borne for me had death summoned me hence before him.

Mr. HALDEMAN. Mr. Speaker, those of us from Pennsylvania who have been somewhat engaged in public affairs have long known JOHN COVODE by general repute; and in the brief period during which I was personally acquainted with him I found him to correspond to the general conception I had previously formed. He had a kind heart, but an unyielding will. With marked intellectual and physical energy, the circumstances of his life were such as to develop all the strong elements of his character. The substratum of JOHN COVODE was true grit; the elements of his nature were granitic. Under any circumstances and in any of the spheres of life he would have been successful. But it was his good fortune to early feel that he was dependent on his own efforts and his unaided energies. Life was for him a battle, and in that battle he emerged from each successful struggle with a more clearly defined and more self-reliant character. The granite of his character was exposed to the blows of fortune; but each blow was like the sculptor's chisel, developing more clearly the well-defined lineaments and form and mind and heart of JOHN COVODE—the *man*—whom we all so familiarly knew. Adversity is necessary to the development of true manhood. Nations and individuals who are possessed of inherent vigor and strength emerge from great trials more complete and admirable.

Mr. COVODE was not educated as the schools understand education. The son of a "redemptioner," and thrown chiefly upon his own resources, he obtained a better education and more complete development from victorious contact with the world than he who, born to ease and with all the facilities of technical education, emerges from the university with the idea that his education is ended; when truly he has merely acquired the educational tools with which he is to work out such fortune and accomplish such duty as Heaven sets him to do. The man who, like a Gladstone or a Disraeli, is born to comparative fortune and is crammed with all the learning of the schools, who has tasted of the delights of study and mental acquisition, who has luxuriated amid philosophical and scientific investigation, who has been tempted to pass his life in the serene enjoyment of his taste for art and science and research, far removed from the deceptions and trials and disappointments and uncongenial associations of public life, such a man who yet wrests himself away from laborious yet delightful days, to become a leader of men and take active part in the battle of life, deserves perhaps as much credit as one who, like Mr. COVODE, is compelled to strive, and striving, win the prize. The one rises superior to his crushing mass of knowledge, whether profitable or unprofitable; he becomes the master of his acquirements, and is not mastered by them, as is too often the case. He shows his true grit by overcoming the natural tendency to ease and luxury, and bravely assumes his share of the burden of those who believe that each of us owe our best endeavors to the amelioration of the nation's and the race's condition. The other is so fortunate as to feel the constant goad—to be developed by necessity and adversity, but which he, too, overcomes. Each plays well his part, each fulfills the

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duties Providence has set him to do, and thereby gains true honor and esteem. Success is in the man, in the unyielding determination to overcome obstacles, whether those obstacles arise out of comfort and luxury, or out of adversity and want.

Each of these typical men would probably succeed in either sphere. But it is the great merit of our institutions and civil polity that eminent success is here possible and facilitated for nature's strong men, no matter whether fortuitously placed high or low, with or without the so-called advantages of fortune. Therefore, JOHN COVODE'S career is eminently typical. Such lives as his are the vindication and the glory of the Republic. They are numerous; they are on all sides of us. They point the true moral of free government, which is founded to cultivate and develop individual man in all those talents and gifts and yearnings which he has received from nature and nature's God; to give full scope for the exercise of his faculties and secure to him his just share of reward.

The question was taken on the resolutions; and they were unanimously agreed to; and thereupon the House (at four o'clock and fifteen minutes p. m.) adjourned.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FRIDAY, *February* 10, 1871.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. MCPHERSON, its Clerk, communicated to the Senate information of the death of Hon. John Covode, late a member of the House of Representatives from the twenty-first congressional district of the State of Pennsylvania.

The resolutions of the House of Representatives were read.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, again, and for the third time during this short session, are we reminded that the robes of office will not ward away the shafts of death. Another of our colleagues has fallen, and we lay aside our labors for a few brief moments to pay a tribute to his memory.

Hon. JOHN COVODE, late Representative of the twenty-first congressional district of Pennsylvania, died at Harrisburg, on the 11th of January. He had left this city a few days previous, proceeded to his home, and with his wife went to Philadelphia, and made arrangements to place two of his younger children at school. Intending to resume his duties in the House, he started to return by way of Harrisburg. There, in his usual robust health, he retired to rest for a few hours before leaving for Washington. Attacked by acute pain in the region of the heart, he awoke, called his wife, and had medical aid summoned. Remedies were administered, but within an hour he died.

JOHN COVODE was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 17th of March, 1808. His father was of Dutch and his mother of Quaker descent. An untarnished name was the only heritage they had to leave their son. His facilities for acquiring an education were very limited. His after life, however, demonstrated that his will would yield to no difficulties which perseverance could overcome, that obstacles in his path gave birth to the resolve that he would surmount them.

When quite young he left his home and traveled on foot to the State of New York, wishing to acquire a knowledge of some branch of manufacturing industry. He selected the fulling business, correctly calculating that one of the necessities of his native district could be supplied by the introduction of a fulling mill. He learned the trade, returned and established what was known for years as COVODE'S Woolen Factory. Although his factory was small, compared with the huge enterprises of the present day, it supplied the wants of the neighborhood. He was an honest, industrious, business man, and gained the confidence of all who knew him. Growing in knowledge and experience, seizing the opportunities which the advance of improvements offered, he employed his energies beyond the limits of his own vicinity, and made the welfare of other sections of the State the object of his solicitude.

Pennsylvania had commenced, in 1826, an extensive system of internal improvements, and many who feared the burden of public debt necessary to their completion shrunk back from the undertaking. Men of nerve and courage were needed for that time. Of that class was Mr. COVODE. Confident in the value of the boundless but undeveloped resources of the great Commonwealth, he gave an ardent support to all measures for the commencement, prosecution, and completion of her canals and railroads. When these furnished insufficient facilities for trade and travel, he again gave his efficient aid. He was one of the original friends of the company incorporated in 1846 to construct a railroad from east to west through the central portion of the State, and did much to secure its success.

When these improvements by State and company enterprise were completed, he was

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from that citadel of their power they have furnished the picket-guard of civilization for the continent. While the sons of the Germans from generation to generation inherited their fathers' lands, they continued in the simple pursuits of their ancestors. The Scotch-Irish, on the other hand, sent their sons to colleges, and constantly asserted their claims to power and direction; the result of which is that this race has furnished us with more Presidents than all others combined, and has put its indelible impress on the political institutions of our country.

There is nothing either new or striking in what I have said; and it may be considered as foreign to the object for which I arose. But to me it seemed necessary in considering the lesson of a useful man's life, and so germane to my purpose.

JOHN COVODE was the irreconcilable foe of slavery because, in the traditions of his family, that detestation was the outgrowth of experience, of bitter suffering, of unmerited reproach. He loved liberty as one to whom its beauty was a reality and not merely a sentiment. And so the same practical traits are to be seen all through his character. As one denied the blessings and advantages of education, he was an unflinching friend of free schools. As an American laborer, his life was spent in shielding American labor from the blight of foreign competition. As a Pennsylvanian, he loved the State which gave him birth and sepulcher to his fathers. As an American citizen, he loved the land where he and his kindred found refuge and honor. His was a sympathetic heart, and his hand was open. He alleviated the sorrows and afflictions of his neighbors with unstinted generosity. And the vast concourse of these that flocked to his funeral to pay honor to his remains is conclusive evidence of the high estimation in which he was held by those who knew him best.

And this, after all, is the touchstone of true popularity. The attendance of the great men of the nation who represented Congress at his burial; of the refined gentlemen, his associates in business and in humanitarian projects; of the eminent men who left everything to add their tribute of respect to the obsequies of their friend, was indeed honorable to them and just to his memory. But the simple, manly grief of his neighbors far outweighs all these, and cast an honor over his grave which all else was incapable of reflecting.

Confident that I have spoken but imperfectly of Mr. COVODE'S character, I yet feel that what I have said is not in vain. Some youth, struggling in obscurity against an adverse fortune, and beset with difficulties which appear at times insurmountable, will read of our dead colleague's struggle and victory, and take fresh courage. If even one such shall thereby emerge from his difficulties, and give to his country and his fellow-men the strong common sense and the acute understanding of another JOHN COVODE, my object will have been attained. And I cannot pay higher honor to the dead than to present his life as an example to the young men of our country claiming, as I do, the liberty of age and experience to press this example on their attention, and pointing them to the struggles, the success, and the end of the life of our departed friend.

I second, sir, the resolutions offered by my colleague.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

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